

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022

Chairman Cressotti called the Special Meeting of the Water Pollution Control Authority to order at 6:16pm on Monday, October 3, 2022 in Council Chambers

Roll Call – Present were Chairman Cressotti, Vice Chairperson Cekala, Commissioners Despard, Finger, Hopkins, Ludwick, Mangini, Nelson, Pyznar, Santanella and Unghire. Also present were Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu; Assistant Town Manager, Steven Bielenda; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey; Director of Public Works, Donald Nunes; and Superintendent of WPC, Todd Matthewson.

ARPA FUNDING FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu stated that the Town Council elected to put aside \$2,920,906 under the category of wastewater treatment. We have also allocated \$468,000 to be used in FY24 for one of the WPC pump stations.

The Director of Public Works and the Supervisor of Water Pollution Control are here to talk about how some of that money may be allocated as well as a general update concerning the status of ongoing projects.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY PROJECT UPDATE

Donald Nunes, Director of DPW
Todd Mathewson, Supervisor of WPC

Mr. Nunes explained that they are almost ready to go out to bid for the Great Brook Pump Station which is a massive project in the area of \$2.5M - \$3M range and is quite detailed work. The specs for this project are over a thousand pages long. This is a very complicated project involving many different disciplines as well as how to handle all that waste while still keeping the pump station running. After that we will be sourcing engineers to start the Sparkle Street Pump Station which is going to cost in the neighborhood of \$2M - \$2.5M to rehab. Those are our two major pump station projects.

There is some good news regarding the WPCF upgrade. Multiple permits have been filed and now it is in Amtrak's hands. We're about two weeks away from actually starting the berm which should only take three to five days to complete. We need to finish that before December and are now basically in line waiting for the final signature to come back from Amtrak.

Mr. Matthewson explained that the Town of Enfield was given almost no notification that the Town of Manchester, which is the last remaining facility in the State of Connecticut, is no longer accepting wastewater screenings or grip. This announcement turned the entire State upside down as there's no place to take it. He has been able to secure a one-year agreement for 2023 on a trial basis in a

landfill in Massachusetts that'll take this product. Our grit is considered a special waste, not a hazardous waste. We could get out of the special waste category if we do certain things to clean it but that's going to be very expensive. In the past we would just call up and hire a contractor. They would come with a truck and suck up all our grit out of our channels and drive it away we'd never see it again. This year we had to suck it up with our own equipment because nobody can take it. We place it on a wash down pad and attempt to dry it out ourselves because it has to pass a paint filter test before we can get rid of it. The last time we did that we had a couple odor complaints. Our plan for the springtime is to purchase a hoop house to put over a wash down pad to control odors while we dry the grit until we can find a more permanent solution.

Mr. Matthewson stated that we almost lost our place at the MDC to truck out our cake product. They are down to one-year renewal contracts. The thicker we get our cake the less we have to truck. However, if we go over 25 percent, they will reject the solids, so it is getting really tricky. We had one number that came back in our laboratory data that was a high. I had to provide them with five years' worth of data to prove to them that it was an anomaly. We looked at a 100-200 mile radius to find anyone else that would take our cake if this deal fell through and wasn't able to find one. Even the sludge byproducts have become a problem. Maine is shutting down land applications this month so there are a lot of treatment facilities in New England scrambling.

On the good side, the new camera trucks are coming this month and we've already scheduled training. As soon as the training is complete, we'll take it to Meadowlark to get ready for the roads projects.

Commissioner Finger asked whether we have considered hauling liquid rather than cake. Mr. Matthewson responded that hauling it as a liquid would be more expensive because we would be paying the weight of water.

Commissioner Mangini is concerned that the State seems to be washing their hands of this issue. Mr. Matthewson answered that equipment could be bought but it is very expensive. Commissioner Mangini asked whether we have looked at applying for any grants. Mr. Matthewson indicated that right now, we have been scrambling to address the urgency of the issue but will continue to look for alternative solutions.

Commissioner Nelson asked if Manchester is the only Town that's been taking this waste, aren't we going to be forced to deal with this sooner than later? Shouldn't we start addressing this before every other town does and we can't find a place to get rid of it? Mr. Matthewson agrees and informed the Commissioners that the Town of Vernon is doing an upgrade right now and they actually shut down their upgrade because of this notification. They are doing a very big change order so they can get ahead of this problem. Commissioner Nelson said he would be interested in seeing rough numbers of what this could potentially cost the town.

Councilor Nelson asked for an update on the Weymouth Road Pump Station. It was mentioned that every time it rains that pump station runs three to four days in a row. This Town has spent millions trying to keep drainage and groundwater out of the sewer system so we're not paying to treat it. That pump station is only for Pheasant Hill. Will the new camera equipment be able to look in the sewer lines and find out where this groundwater is coming from and try to eliminate it? Mr. Matthewson indicated possibly yes; we may be able to locate it.

Commissioner Nelson said we talked about putting a storage tank in or pumping only at two o'clock in the morning. Perhaps he can design a system that will work with our facility and only pump at two o'clock in the morning so it really shouldn't affect the pump station. Commissioner Nelson is interested in the town working with him instead of reinventing the wheel just to put in this 500-gallon pump system.

Commissioner Hopkins thanked Mr. Mathewson for coming in front of the Commissioners as it is always quite elucidating. As he understands this grit issue, there are only really three options. One is to build a new cleaning plant for a multi-million-dollar figure. He would also like to know what that figure might be because there may be a limited number of options. Option two is to continue to rely on this facility in Massachusetts and continue cleaning on our side. For that option to continue to work is contingent upon the plant in Massachusetts continuing to accept our waste. What infrastructure is needed in town to continue this option provided the facility in Massachusetts continues to accept our waste?

Mr. Mathewson indicated that in order for the company in Massachusetts to continue to accept our product, it comes with a lot of stipulations. It can't have one drop of water in it. It takes a long time and is really hard for us. We have to go out there and flip that product two or three times with our Bobcat on the washdown pad. If it rains, we start all over again. We don't have a lot of options at the moment. We are still in the exploratory phase of what we can do. ESI told us that the landfill was going to take it, but this is only on a trial basis. They were not going to promise any more than one year. The material is very odorous which is why Manchester has decided not to continue due to numerous complaints.

Commissioner Ludwig asked if they have an idea of what some of the of these other towns are doing now that they can't bring it to Manchester. Mr. Mathewson responded that he is only aware of the Town of Vernon. Commissioner Ludwig asked if there were any opportunities to join in with other towns. Mr. Mathewson responded that he is not aware of any at this time.

Councilor Ludwick asked that concerning the Great Brook pump station as well as the Sparkle Street station, do we have to go to referendum to finish this project or have we been putting away money for the WPCF Capital Fund? Mr. Nunes answered that we've been putting away about \$500,000 a year for many years now so we do have almost \$1.928 million in that fund right now. Commissioner Ludwick asked how many pump stations we have. Mr. Nunes responded 16. Commissioner Ludwick asked of the remaining 14, what condition are they in? Mr. Mathewson responded that they all have to be replaced. Some of them are way past their life expectancy. We just completed a study with Wright/ Pierce who did a lift station analysis for us, and we have some work to do.

RESOLUTION #4722 by Commissioner Mangini, seconded by Commissioner Cekala

WHEREAS, 11 Pearl Street was the Thompsonville Fire District fire house for several years; and

WHEREAS, the Thompsonville Fire District's fire house is now located at 35 North Main Street; and

WHEREAS, the water line servicing 11 Pearl Street has a two-inch meter which has a Base Quarterly Charge of \$312.00 per the Town's Sewer Service Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2022-2023; and

WHEREAS, Patrick and Jeanette Tallarita purchased 11 Pearl Street in July 2021 and have converted the building to a single-family residence; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Town of Enfield Sewer Usage Adjustment Policy, subsection D, Mr. and Mrs. Tallarita have requested that the Base Quarterly Charge be adjusted to reflect the rate for a 5/8-inch meter, which size is the typical size for single family residences.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Base Quarterly Charge, as set forth in the Sewer User Fee Schedule, shall be adjusted to reflect the rate for a 5/8-inch meter for 11 Pearl Street.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the adjustment shall commence as of the date of this resolution and shall be effective only for the period that 11 Pearl Street is used primarily as a single-family residence.

Commissioner Nelson stated that he feels this decision is under the purview of the Planning and Zoning Commission. If the Tallarita's would like, they can apply for a zone change from commercial to residential and then come back and have a 5/8 meter installed. In the future they are looking to use the building for some commercial use.

Commissioner Mangini respectfully disagrees with Commissioner Nelson in the sense that although this building is zoned commercial, the Tallarita's purchased the property with the intent of using it as a residence and in the future, as a mixed use. The resolution clearly states that the adjustment shall commence from the date of this resolution and be effective only for the period that 11 Pearl Street is used primarily as a single-family residence which essentially means that once the use changes to commercial the fees will change back.

Commissioner Hopkins doesn't believe this resolution requires a zone change. It is within the capacity of the WPCA to allow this adjustment. It is a matter of equity as well as incentivizing development of this property.

Commission Finger stated that this is a commercial building. He agrees with Commissioner Nelson that this should go before Planning and Zoning.

Commissioner Pyznar commented that she realizes he is trying to revitalize Thompsonville and she respects that and is grateful he wants to be part of the revitalization. However, he purchased the property as a commercial building, and we will be setting a precedent for others in the future.

Commissioner Santanella supports this as a temporary fix during the transition period and feels it's a reasonable request. He agrees with Commissioner Hopkins that it is well within the rights of the WPCA to make this decision and it should not need to go to Planning and Zoning. He doesn't believe that this is particularly special treatment. It is an unusual circumstance that requires a special action more than special treatment.

Commissioner Hopkins welcomes anybody who has a great idea for developing Thompsonville to come in front of the Council. Many Council members are very interested in its continued development. Thompsonville is like a small flame right now that Council should foster so that we can have a booming center of town again.

Chairman Cressotti is going to support this resolution and supports the revitalization of Thompsonville. This topic has been brought up many times before and has been ignored by WPC. This is a temporary fix for someone who's doing something good for our town and he's made a commitment to the residents in this area of town. If somewhere down the road the use goes back to commercial, then the rate will revert to what it is.

Town Manager Zoppo-Sassu clarified for the Commission that at the July 5th meeting, the Council voted to amend the WPCA dispute process, Town Code 86-204, Subsection C which gave the Water Pollution Control authority to amend the dispute resolution process based on the Town Manager's recommendation. When Council did that, they amended the Sewer Usage Adjustment Policy and added a new section, Section D - Change in Use. If a property is converted from a non-residential use to a primarily single-family residential use the base quarterly charge may be adjusted to reflect the residential use. You are within your powers as WPCA to take this action.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that Commissioner Nelson is correct that if this was a Planning and Zoning matter there would be a change of use. We are not there yet. Her recommendation in July was based on the fact that we have to do everything in our power to enable appropriate redevelopment in the Thompsonville area. That is why we are working with Mr. Salus to redo all the lines and part of his site plan application. It's why we are invested in the Strand and in Lamagna. We are probably going to see a lot more very unique situations as more people come forward.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #4722** adopted 6-5-0. Commissioners Finger, Ludwick, Nelson, Pyznar and Unghire voted against.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #4723 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #4723** adopted 11-0-0 and the meeting stood adjourned at 7:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey
Clerk to the Council
Town Clerk